

## REMARKS

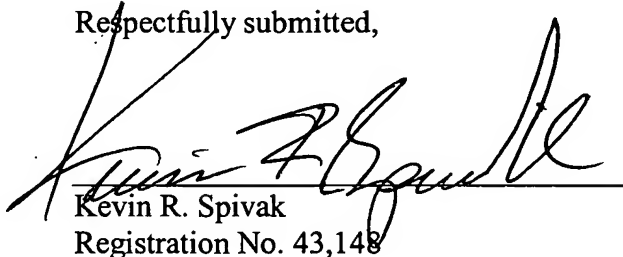
Amendments to the specification have been made and are submitted herewith in the attached Substitute Specification. A clean copy of the specification and a marked-up version showing the changes made are attached herewith. The claims and abstract have been amended in the attached Preliminary Amendment. All amendments have been made to place the application in proper U.S. format and to conform with proper grammatical and idiomatic English. None of the amendments herein are made for reasons related to patentability. No new matter has been added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims and abstract by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122013100. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 22, 2002

  
Kevin R. Spivak  
Registration No. 43,148

Morrison & Foerster LLP  
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1888  
Telephone: (202) 887-6924  
Facsimile: (202) 263-8396

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

For the convenience of the Examiner, the changes made are shown below with deleted text in strikethrough and added text in underline.

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the Title with the following rewritten Title:

**COMMUNICATIONS METHOD AND ~~COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM~~ TO CONVERT  
MESSAGES INTO TELEVISION SIGNALS**

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-17.

Please add new claims 18-34 as follows:

18. (New) A communications method, comprising:  
inputting short message information on a mobile terminal;  
transmitting short message information from the mobile terminal via a mobile  
radiotelephone channel to a corresponding base station;  
transmitting the short message information from the base station to a TV transmitter unit;  
converting the short message information into corresponding TV transmission signals;  
transmitting the TV transmission signals corresponding to the short message information  
to a TV set; and  
presenting short message information on the TV set to visualize the TV transmission  
signals or transmitting to another mobile terminal for output.
19. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 18, wherein during inputting, a  
telephone number is entered together with the short message information, and during the  
transmitting from the base station, the short message information is transmitted to the TV  
transmitter unit corresponding to the telephone number.

20. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 18, wherein during transmitting the TV transmission signals, the TV transmission signals corresponding to the short message information are transmitted via a transmission channel reserved for the transmission of short message information to the TV set.

21. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the TV transmission signals corresponding to the short message information are transmitted via a transmission channel reserved for a TV program to the TV set.

22. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 21, wherein during presenting, the short message information is presented in videotext of the corresponding TV program.

23. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 21, wherein during presenting, the short message information is inserted into the TV program.

24. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 18, wherein during presenting, the short message information is presented on the TV set in the form of a permanent local display.

25. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 18, wherein during presenting, the short message information is presented on the TV set in the form of a scrolling display.

26. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 18, wherein during presenting, short message information from different mobile terminals is presented simultaneously on the TV set.

27. (New) The communications method as claimed claim 18, wherein the short message information during presenting is presented on the TV set together with a telephone number which is allocated to the mobile terminal and is used during inputting and transmitting from the mobile terminal to enter and send the short message information.

28. (New) The communications method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the short message information during inputting is entered via a keypad of the mobile terminal.

29. (New) A communications system comprising:

a plurality of mobile terminals which communicate with one another via a mobile radiotelephone channel, whereby the mobile terminals are configured to transmit short message information;

at least one TV transmitter unit having a reception unit to receive the short message information transferred by one of the mobile terminals;

a conversion unit to convert the received short message information into TV transmission signals; and

a transmission unit to transmit the TV transmission signals corresponding to the received short message information via a TV transmission channel, wherein

the mobile terminals communicate with one another via at least one base station, the base station configured such that it forwards short message information received from one of the mobile terminals to the TV transmitter unit identified by a corresponding telephone number or transmits the short message information directly to another mobile terminal for output.

30. (New) The communications system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the transmission unit of the TV transmitter unit is configured to transmit the TV transmission signals corresponding to the short message information via the TV transmission channel reserved for the transmission of short message information.

31. (New) The communications system as claimed in claim 30, wherein the transmission unit of the TV transmitter unit are configured to transmit the TV transmission signals corresponding to the short message information via the TV transmission channel reserved for the transmission of short message information.

32. (New) The communications system as claimed in claim 31, wherein the transmission unit of the TV transmitter unit is configured to transmit the short message information via a TV transmission channel embedded in videotext information of the corresponding TV program.

33. (New) The communications system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the short message information is transmitted via the TV transmission channel to a plurality of TV sets, the TV sets presenting the short message information in the form of a permanent local display.

34. (New) The communications system as claimed in claim 29, wherein the short message information is transmitted via the TV transmission channel to a plurality of TV sets, the TV sets presenting the short message information in the form of a scrolling display.

**In the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the substitute Abstract attached hereto.

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
48  
49  
50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72  
73  
74  
75  
76  
77  
78  
79  
80  
81  
82  
83  
84  
85  
86  
87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96  
97  
98  
99  
100  
101  
102  
103  
104  
105  
106  
107  
108  
109  
110  
111  
112  
113  
114  
115  
116  
117  
118  
119  
120  
121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126  
127  
128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148  
149  
150  
151  
152  
153  
154  
155  
156  
157  
158  
159  
160  
161  
162  
163  
164  
165  
166  
167  
168  
169  
170  
171  
172  
173  
174  
175  
176  
177  
178  
179  
180  
181  
182  
183  
184  
185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190  
191  
192  
193  
194  
195  
196  
197  
198  
199  
200  
201  
202  
203  
204  
205  
206  
207  
208  
209  
210  
211  
212  
213  
214  
215  
216  
217  
218  
219  
220  
221  
222  
223  
224  
225  
226  
227  
228  
229  
230  
231  
232  
233  
234  
235  
236  
237  
238  
239  
240  
241  
242  
243  
244  
245  
246  
247  
248  
249  
250  
251  
252  
253  
254  
255  
256  
257  
258  
259  
260  
261  
262  
263  
264  
265  
266  
267  
268  
269  
270  
271  
272  
273  
274  
275  
276  
277  
278  
279  
280  
281  
282  
283  
284  
285  
286  
287  
288  
289  
290  
291  
292  
293  
294  
295  
296  
297  
298  
299  
300  
301  
302  
303  
304  
305  
306  
307  
308  
309  
310  
311  
312  
313  
314  
315  
316  
317  
318  
319  
320  
321  
322  
323  
324  
325  
326  
327  
328  
329  
330  
331  
332  
333  
334  
335  
336  
337  
338  
339  
340  
341  
342  
343  
344  
345  
346  
347  
348  
349  
350  
351  
352  
353  
354  
355  
356  
357  
358  
359  
360  
361  
362  
363  
364  
365  
366  
367  
368  
369  
370  
371  
372  
373  
374  
375  
376  
377  
378  
379  
380  
381  
382  
383  
384  
385  
386  
387  
388  
389  
390  
391  
392  
393  
394  
395  
396  
397  
398  
399  
400  
401  
402  
403  
404  
405  
406  
407  
408  
409  
410  
411  
412  
413  
414  
415  
416  
417  
418  
419  
420  
421  
422  
423  
424  
425  
426  
427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472  
473  
474  
475  
476  
477  
478  
479  
480  
481  
482  
483  
484  
485  
486  
487  
488  
489  
490  
491  
492  
493  
494  
495  
496  
497  
498  
499  
500  
501  
502  
503  
504  
505  
506  
507  
508  
509  
510  
511  
512  
513  
514  
515  
516  
517  
518  
519  
520  
521  
522  
523  
524  
525  
526  
527  
528  
529  
530  
531  
532  
533  
534  
535  
536  
537  
538  
539  
540  
541  
542  
543  
544  
545  
546  
547  
548  
549  
550  
551  
552  
553  
554  
555  
556  
557  
558  
559  
560  
561  
562  
563  
564  
565  
566  
567  
568  
569  
570  
571  
572  
573  
574  
575  
576  
577  
578  
579  
580  
581  
582  
583  
584  
585  
586  
587  
588  
589  
590  
591  
592  
593  
594  
595  
596  
597  
598  
599  
600  
601  
602  
603  
604  
605  
606  
607  
608  
609  
610  
611  
612  
613  
614  
615  
616  
617  
618  
619  
620  
621  
622  
623  
624  
625  
626  
627  
628  
629  
630  
631  
632  
633  
634  
635  
636  
637  
638  
639  
640  
641  
642  
643  
644  
645  
646  
647  
648  
649  
650  
651  
652  
653  
654  
655  
656  
657  
658  
659  
660  
661  
662  
663  
664  
665  
666  
667  
668  
669  
670  
671  
672  
673  
674  
675  
676  
677  
678  
679  
680  
681  
682  
683  
684  
685  
686  
687  
688  
689  
690  
691  
692  
693  
694  
695  
696  
697  
698  
699  
700  
701  
702  
703  
704  
705  
706  
707  
708  
709  
710  
711  
712  
713  
714  
715  
716  
717  
718  
719  
720  
721  
722  
723  
724  
725  
726  
727  
728  
729  
730  
731  
732  
733  
734  
735  
736  
737  
738  
739  
740  
741  
742  
743  
744  
745  
746  
747  
748  
749  
750  
751  
752  
753  
754  
755  
756  
757  
758  
759  
760  
761  
762  
763  
764  
765  
766  
767  
768  
769  
770  
771  
772  
773  
774  
775  
776  
777  
778  
779  
780  
781  
782  
783  
784  
785  
786  
787  
788  
789  
790  
791  
792  
793  
794  
795  
796  
797  
798  
799  
800  
801  
802  
803  
804  
805  
806  
807  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814  
815  
816  
817  
818  
819  
820  
821  
822  
823  
824  
825  
826  
827  
828  
829  
830  
831  
832  
833  
834  
835  
836  
837  
838  
839  
840  
841  
842  
843  
844  
845  
846  
847  
848  
849  
850  
851  
852  
853  
854  
855  
856  
857  
858  
859  
860  
861  
862  
863  
864  
865  
866  
867  
868  
869  
870  
871  
872  
873  
874  
875  
876  
877  
878  
879  
880  
881  
882  
883  
884  
885  
886  
887  
888  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
930  
931  
932  
933  
934  
935  
936  
937  
938  
939  
940  
941  
942  
943  
944  
945  
946  
947  
948  
949  
950  
951  
952  
953  
954  
955  
956  
957  
958  
959  
960  
961  
962  
963  
964  
965  
966  
967  
968  
969  
970  
971  
972  
973  
974  
975  
976  
977  
978  
979  
980  
981  
982  
983  
984  
985  
986  
987  
988  
989  
990  
991  
992  
993  
994  
995  
996  
997  
998  
999  
1000

COMMUNICATIONS METHOD AND ~~COMMUNICATIONS~~ SYSTEM TO  
CONVERT MESSAGES INTO TELEVISION SIGNALS

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

- 5 This application claims priority to International  
Application No. PCT/DE00/01111 which was published in  
the German language on January 4, 2001.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 10 A system and method of communication, and in  
particular, for communicating short messages into  
television signals.

- ~~The present invention relates to a communications~~  
15 ~~method according to the preamble to claim 1 and a~~  
~~communications system according to the preamble to~~  
~~claim 12.~~

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- In conventional mobile radiotelephone systems,  
20 communications information, in particular voice  
information, is transmitted between mobile terminals or  
mobile telephones, ~~whereby, to.~~ To transmit the  
information, base stations are provided which forward  
the information arriving from a mobile telephone to the  
25 required destination terminal. The base stations also  
serve as an interface with the fixed telephone network  
to which line-connected subscriber terminals are  
connected, and with which communication with the mobile  
telephones is similarly possible.

- 30 In modern mobile radiotelephone systems, e.g. GSM  
mobile radiotelephone systems (Global System For Mobile  
Communications), "Teleservices" are additionally  
offered. A teleservice ~~of this type is,~~ for example, in  
35 GSM mobile radiotelephone systems, is the "Short

Message Services" (SMS), which supports the transmission of short messages comprising up to 160 (7-bit ASCII) alphanumeric characters, between the mobile telephones of the mobile radiotelephone system. Each short message is transmitted in the form of a data packet. A short message of this type is entered via the keypad of one mobile telephone and is presented on the display of the mobile telephone dialed up by the transmitting mobile radiotelephone subscriber.

10

However, in these ~~known~~ short message services which are offered in conventional mobile radiotelephone systems, a short message messages can normally be sent to one destination subscriber only. If a user wants to address a plurality of destination subscribers are intended to be addressed, the short message transmission must be repeated ~~several times with different~~ for telephone numbers which are allocated to the individual required destination subscribers being addressed. In addition, short messages can only be transmitted between persons who possess a mobile telephone or other mobile terminal which is capable of receiving short information of this type.

~~The object of the present invention is therefore to propose a communications method and a corresponding communications system which, with simple means, enables the transmission of short messages to a virtually unlimited group of persons.~~

30

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment of the invention, there is a communications method. The method includes, for example, inputting short message information on a mobile terminal, transmitting short message information from the mobile terminal via a mobile radiotelephone

35

channel to a corresponding base station, transmitting  
the short message information from the base station to  
a TV transmitter unit, converting the short message  
information into corresponding TV transmission signals,  
5 transmitting the TV transmission signals corresponding  
to the short message information to a TV set, and  
presenting short message information on the TV set to  
visualize the TV transmission signals or transmitting  
to another mobile terminal for output.

10 In another aspect of the invention, during  
inputting, a telephone number is entered together with  
the short message information, and during the  
transmitting from the base station, the short message  
information is transmitted to the TV transmitter unit  
15 corresponding to the telephone number.

In another aspect of the invention, during  
transmitting the TV transmission signals, the TV  
transmission signals corresponding to the short message  
information are transmitted via a transmission channel  
20 reserved for the transmission of short message  
information to the TV set.

In yet another aspect of the invention, the TV  
transmission signals corresponding to the short message  
information are transmitted via a transmission channel  
25 reserved for a TV program to the TV set.

In another aspect of the invention, during  
presenting, the short message information is presented  
in videotext of the corresponding TV program.

In another aspect of the invention, during  
30 presenting, the short message information is inserted  
into the TV program.

In still another aspect of the invention, during  
presenting, the short message information is presented  
on the TV set in the form of a permanent local display.

35 In another aspect of the invention, during



presenting, the short message information is presented on the TV set in the form of a scrolling display.

In another aspect of the invention, during presenting, short message information from different mobile terminals is presented simultaneously on the TV set.

In yet another aspect of the invention, the short message information during presenting is presented on the TV set together with a telephone number which is allocated to the mobile terminal and is used during inputting and transmitting from the mobile terminal to enter and send the short message information.

In another aspect of the invention, the short message information during inputting is entered via a keypad of the mobile terminal.

In another embodiment of the invention, there is a communications system. The system includes, for example, a plurality of mobile terminals which communicate with one another via a mobile radiotelephone channel, whereby the mobile terminals are configured to transmit short message information, at least one TV transmitter unit having a reception unit to receive the short message information transferred by one of the mobile terminals, a conversion unit to convert the received short message information into TV transmission signals, and a transmission unit to transmit the TV transmission signals corresponding to the received short message information via a TV transmission channel, wherein the mobile terminals communicate with one another via at least one base station, the base station configured such that it forwards short message information received from one of the mobile terminals to the TV transmitter unit identified by a corresponding telephone number or transmits the short message information directly to another mobile terminal for

output.

In another aspect of the invention, the transmission unit of the TV transmitter unit is configured to transmit the TV transmission signals corresponding to the short message information via the TV transmission channel reserved for the transmission of short message information.

In another aspect of the invention, the transmission unit of the TV transmitter unit are configured to transmit the TV transmission signals corresponding to the short message information via the TV transmission channel reserved for the transmission of short message information.

In still another aspect of the invention, the transmission unit of the TV transmitter unit is configured to transmit the short message information via a TV transmission channel embedded in videotext information of the corresponding TV program.

In another aspect of the invention, the short message information is transmitted via the TV transmission channel to a plurality of TV sets, the TV sets presenting the short message information in the form of a permanent local display.

In another aspect of the invention, the short message information is transmitted via the TV transmission channel to a plurality of TV sets, the TV sets presenting the short message information in the form of a scrolling display.

~~This object is achieved according to the present invention by a communications method with the features of claim 1 and a communications system with the features of claim 12. The subclaims in each case define preferred and advantageous embodiments of the present invention.~~

According to the invention, it is proposed to transmit packet oriented messages, such as SMS short messages or data transmitted by means of GPRS (GSM General Packet Radio Services), from mobile terminals, e.g. mobile telephones, of a mobile radiotelephone system to a TV transmitter unit which converts these messages into TV transmission signals and feeds them into the TV network, so that the messages can be visualized and presented on the screens of all TV sets connected to the TV network.

These short messages can be presented, for example, continuously on a free channel space, or can be incorporated into the videotext of a corresponding TV program.

In this way, subscribers can participate spontaneously and interactively in television productions or television programs. In this respect, it has hitherto only been known to participate in the respective television program via a telephone voice link, via DTMF enabled telephones (Dual Tone Multi Frequency) or via cable connected data transmission (in particular via the Internet), which requires the corresponding hardware and is consequently expensive.

Furthermore, on the basis of the present invention, it is also possible to create virtual TV chatrooms for chat between a multiplicity of subscribers, or TV marketplaces for submitting sale/purchase advertisements, etc.

With the aid of the present invention, any mobile radio subscriber can address a virtually unlimited group of persons, since the TV transmitter unit selected by him forwards the relevant short messages to all TV sets

connected to the television network. In particular,  
subscribers who possess no mobile terminal can also be  
addressed. The corresponding subscriber has only to  
possess a TV set and a mobile telephone in order to  
5 participate actively in the communication.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention is explained in detail below with  
reference to the attached drawing.

10 Fig. 1 shows the a simplified structure of a  
communications system according to an embodiment of the  
present invention.

Figs. 2A and 2B show ~~representations to explain the~~ an  
exemplary input and transmission of short messages in  
15 the communications system shown in Fig. 1

Fig. 3 shows a ~~representation to explain the~~  
visualization of short messages transmitted via the  
communications system shown in Fig. 1 on the screen of  
a TV set.

20

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The present invention discloses a communications method  
and system which enables the transmission of short  
messages to an unlimited group of persons.

25

According to the invention, packet-oriented messages,  
such as SMS short messages or data transmitted by means  
of GPRS (GSM General Packet Radio Services), are  
transmitted from mobile terminals, e.g. mobile  
30 telephones, of a mobile radiotelephone system to a TV  
transmitter unit. These messages are converted into TV  
transmission signals and fed into the TV network, so  
that the messages can be visualized and presented on  
the screens of TV sets connected to the TV network.

35

The short messages can be presented, for example,

continuously on a free channel space, or can be incorporated into the videotext of a corresponding TV program.

5 In this way, subscribers can participate spontaneously and interactively in television productions or television programs. In this respect, it has only been known to interact with the television program via a telephone voice link, via DTMF-enabled telephones (Dual  
10 Tone Multi-Frequency) or via cable-connected data transmission (in particular via the Internet), which requires the appropriate hardware and is often expensive.

15 The present invention also provides the ability to create virtual TV chatrooms for discussion between multiple subscribers, or TV marketplaces for submitting sale/purchase advertisements, etc.

20 With the present invention, mobile radio subscribers can address an unlimited group of persons, since the TV transmitter unit selected by the subscriber forwards the relevant short messages to all TV sets connected to the television network. In particular, subscribers who  
25 possess no mobile terminal can also be addressed. The subscriber need only possess a TV set and a mobile telephone in order to participate actively in the communication.

30 The communications system shown in Fig. 1 comprises a mobile radiotelephone system, for example a mobile radiotelephone system according to the GSM standard, which is represented by including two mobile telephones 1a, 1b and a base station 2. The mobile telephones 1a,  
35 1b transmit communications information via an uplink

7a, 7b to the base station 2, which in turn transmits communications information via the downlink 8a, 8b to the mobile telephones 1a, 1b. The base station 2 serves as an interface, ~~on the one hand~~ between all mobile  
5 telephones of the corresponding mobile radiotelephone system and, ~~on the other hand,~~ and between the mobile radiotelephone system and a fixed telephone network (not shown), ~~so that.~~ This makes it ~~is also~~ possible to telephone or communicate via the mobile telephones  
10 1a, 1b with fixed-network subscribers. The mobile radiotelephone network ~~normally~~ typically has a cellular structure, whereby a base station 2 is allocated to each radio cell and is responsible for the mobile telephones 1a, 1b located in the corresponding  
15 radio cell.

Packet-oriented messages, i.e. information transmitted in the form of data packets, can be transmitted by the mobile telephones 1a, 1b. These packet-oriented  
20 messages may, for example, be SMS (Short Message Services) short messages or data transmitted by means of GPRS (GSM General Packet Radio Services). These short messages are may be entered via the keypad 12a, 12b of the mobile telephone or by means of voice input  
25 (through voice recognition on the mobile telephone itself or via a voice server of the mobile radiotelephone network) and are transmitted via a mobile radiotelephone channel to the required mobile radiotelephone subscriber identified via a  
30 corresponding telephone number, to be presented there on the display 11a, 11b.

In addition, a television or TV system is provided which comprises a TV transmitter unit 3 with a  
35 terrestrial or cable-connected television network connected thereto. By dialing a telephone number, which is allocated to a specific television program or the

corresponding TV transmitter unit 3, any mobile radiotelephone subscriber can transmit short messages, not only to one other mobile radiotelephone subscriber, but also to all TV sets 10a, 10b connected to the television network of the dialed-up TV transmitter unit 3.

The TV transmitter unit 3 has a radio-frequency interface 4 via which short information can be received from a mobile radiotelephone subscriber 1a, 1b, and can be demodulated and decoded. A unit 5 for processing the received short messages and for converting the short messages into a television-compatible format is connected to the radio-frequency interface 4. The information processed in this way is then fed via a TV interface 6 into the television network and transmitted in the form of TV signals via TV signal paths 9a, 9b in a cableless or cable-connected manner to the TV sets 10a, 10b connected to the television network.

The TV transmitter unit 3 does not have to be a complete TV transmitter station, but rather the function of the TV transmitter unit 3 can also be implemented merely by means of a correspondingly designed server, which can be dialed up via a corresponding telephone number from any mobile telephone 1a, 1b and can feed the converted, received short messages into the television network.

The short messages transmitted to the TV sets 10a, 10b can be visualized in different ways on the corresponding screens. Thus, for example, it is ~~conceivable~~ possible for the short information always to be transmitted by the TV transmitter unit 2 via a TV transmission channel ~~specifically reserved for this purpose~~ to the TV sets 10a, 10b, whereby a dedicated channel space is provided there to display the

currently available short information. The short information can also be incorporated in the TV sets 10a, 10b into the videotext service offered by the various TV programs or TV transmitters. It is also possible for the short information to be transmitted to the TV sets 10a, 10b together with the TV transmission signals allocated to a specific TV program or TV transmitter and for the short information then to be inserted into the normal TV program. The short messages can be presented on the screens of the TV sets 10a, 10b connected to the television network either continuously or in the form of a permanent local display on the corresponding screen.

Additional information, such as the name and/or telephone number of the mobile radiotelephone subscriber sending the short messages, can also be added by the TV transmission station 2 to the short messages.

With the aid of the communications system according to the invention shown in Fig. 1, it is, for example, possible for any mobile radiotelephone subscriber to intervene interactively and spontaneously in a current television program and send messages to the television audience.

It is thus also possible to create virtual TV market places, where mobile radiotelephone subscribers can submit sale or purchase advertisements.

In addition, a virtual TV chat room, for example, can also be created, which will be explained in detail below with reference to the illustrations shown in Figs. 2A, 2B and 3.

As shown in Fig. 2A, with reference to the content of the display 11 of a mobile telephone, a mobile



radiotelephone subscriber initially enters the short message "Anyone going to the R.E.M. concert next week?" via the keypad of his mobile telephone and transmits this by entering the telephone number "0179 700 800 9", which is allocated to the "MSNBC-Chat TV" application, via the mobile radiotelephone network to a base station 2 (cf. the illustration shown in Fig. 2B). The base station 2 then forwards the short message to a TV transmitter unit 3 corresponding to the dial-up application.

In the TV transmitter unit 3, ~~this~~ the short message is converted into a TV transmission signal, is fed into the corresponding television network and transmitted to the TV sets connected thereto. As shown in Fig. 3, with reference to the screen content of a corresponding TV set 10, ~~all~~ short messages transmitted to the TV set 10 of ~~all~~ mobile radiotelephone subscribers are presented in the form of a display scrolling from top to bottom, for example in a free channel space, thereby producing a presentation of messages similar to an Internet chat.

In the example shown in Fig. 3, the name and telephone number of the mobile radiotelephone subscriber in each case sending the short messages are presented along with the actual short messages.